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Urban District Council of Huyton-with-Roby

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

Including the Report of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1948

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HUYTON-WITH-ROBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
1948

Chairman of the Council :
ANGUS JOHNSTONE, ESQ.

Vice-Chairman :
JOHN R. COLBERT, ESQ.

Chairman of the Public Health Committee :
Dr. A. CLEIN

Members of the Public Health Committee :

W. H. Bygroves, Esq.
John T. Donoghue, Esq.
William Humphries, Esq.
Albert Drinkwater, Esq.
Lee B. Charnley, Esq.
Angus Johnstone, Esq.
W. O. Jones, Esq.
J. J. McGoldrick, Esq.
J. Rogers, Esq.
John Bevan, Esq.
Charles F. Shaw, Esq.

Medical Officer of Health—F. W. BUNTING, M.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector — C. COOPER

URBAN DISTRICT OF HUYTON-WITH-ROBY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1948

Mr. Chairman and Councillors.

The health of the community has remained satisfactory during 1948. The death rate of 7.9 per 1,000 was lower than that for the previous year, and also below the rate for England and Wales (10.8).

The birth rate at 22.2 per 1,000 showed a decrease over the previous year, but it was considerably above the rate for England and Wales (17.9).

I am happy to report that the death rate amongst children under the age of 1 year (infant mortality rate) was 49 per 1,000 live births, a decrease of 25 per 1,000 over the previous year, and a decrease of 16 per 1,000 on the 5 years average, 1943-1947.

The incidence of infectious disease showed a slight increase over the previous year, which has been due to an increase in the incidence of whooping cough, and a slight increase in the incidence of scarlet fever.

The incidence of diphtheria has continued to decline—28 cases being notified compared with 43 during the previous year.

Two cases of Typhoid were notified during the year. These cases occurred in a family resident in the district, and the first case to be notified was a boy of 10 years. Upon investigations being made it was found that one of his sisters aged 6 years was convalescing from the disease. It transpired that the family had visited a town in Cheshire during Whitsuntide, where they had gathered cockles on the foreshore, and had consumed them later at home. It would appear that the girl was infected by eating the cockles, and later on the boy was infected.

Following the inception of the National Health Service Act, on the 5th July, 1948, the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme became the responsibility of the Lancashire County Council in their capacity as the Local Health Authority.

In a similar manner the Home Help Scheme was also taken over by the Lancashire County Council. These activities are now being administered locally by the Divisional Health Committee No. 9, and as your Medical Officer of Health is also the Divisional Medical Officer, I am happy to report that continuity has been maintained in the progress of both these services.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Staff of the Health Department for their loyal help, and co-operation during the year.

Yours faithfully,

F. W. BUNTING,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

Area, in Acres	3,054
Population—Census, 1931	5,368
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population, mid-1948....	53,330
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)	1,236
End of 1948 according to Rate Books	13,198
Rateable Value....	£232,520
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£902

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Population—Registrar-General's estimate, mid-1948—53,330.

Live Births—	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	1,146	601	545
Illegitimate....	43	24	19
	1,189	625	564

Birth rate per 1,000 population mid-1948—22.2.

Stillbirths—	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	28	18	10
Illegitimate....	1	1	—
	29	19	10

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—23

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	425	223	202

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population—7.9

Deaths from puerperal causes—	Deaths	Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	nil	nil
Other maternal	2	1.64
Total maternal mortality	2	1.64

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	53	28	25
Illegitimate....	6	3	3
Total	59	31	28

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	49
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	46
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	139

Principal causes of deaths :—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	56
,, Measles (all ages)	nil
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	4
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)....	8

	Per 1,000 of estimated population				Maternal mortality rate		
	Live birth-rate	Crude death-rate	Death-rate from tuber-culosis of respiratory system	Death rate from cancer	Per 1000 live births	Per 1000 total (live and still) births	Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births
Population— For birth-rate For death-rate 53,330							
Mean of 5 years, 1943-1947	25.1	9.1	0.63	1.28	0.86	0.83	66
Year—							
1947	26.6	8.8	0.73	1.23	nil.	nil.	74
1948	22.2*	7.9	0.56	1.05	1.68	1.64	49
Increase or decrease in 1948 *on*—							
5 *years' average,* 1943-1947	—2.9	—1.2	—0.07	—0.23	+0.82	+0.81	—17
Previous year	—4.4	—0.9	—0.17	—0.18	+1.68	+1.64	—25

*1948 adjusted death-rate.

Cause of Deaths in the Urban District, 1948.

TOTAL DEATHS.

	Causes of Death	Male	Female
1	Typhoid and Parat. fevers	—	—
2	Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—
3	Scarlet fever	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	3	1
5	Diphtheria	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	15	15
7	Other forms of tuberculosis	4	5
8	Syphilitic Diseases	1	1
9	Influenza	—	—
10	Measles	—	—
11	Acute Polio-Myelitis	—	—
12	Acute Inf. Encephalitis	—	—
13	Cancer of Buccal Cavity : Oesoph ; (M) Uteris : (F)	2	3
14	Cancer of stomach and Duodenum	4	8
15	Cancer of Breast	—	5
16	Cancer of all other sites	23	11
17	Diabetes	—	2
18	Intra-cran. Vasc. Lesions	20	21
19	Heart disease	56	53
20	Other diseases of circulatory system	11	5
21	Bronchitis	11	2
22	Pneumonia	10	12
23	Other respiratory diseases	5	3
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	2
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	6	2
26	Appendicitis	1	—
27	Other digestive diseases	1	4
28	Nephritis	4	2
29	Puer. and Post-Abort. sepsis	—	—
30	Other maternal causes	—	2
31	Premature Birth	9	6
32	Congenital causes	6	8
33	Suicide	4	1
34	Road Traffic Accidents	2	2
35	Other violent causes	8	3
36	All other causes	14	23
All Causes	....	223	202

Summary of the Vital Statistics for 1948 for England and Wales as a whole, and for certain groups of towns.

Birth-rates. Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1948.

(Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	126 C.B's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident) Pop. 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census	London Admin. County
	*Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population			
Births :—				
Live Births	17.9†	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still Births	0.42†	0.52	0.43	0.39
Deaths :—				
All Causes	10.8†	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhiod and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Tuberculosis	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
Influenza	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia....	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54
Notifications :—(corrected)				
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet fever	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37
Whooping Cough	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
Pneumonia	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis	0:00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—			
Deaths :—				
All causes under 1 year of age	34*	39	32	31
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4
	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births			
Notifications:—(corrected)				
Puerperal fever .... Puerperal pyrexia	6.89	8.90	4.71	7.34**

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales

	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
140 Abortion with sepsis	0.11	9
141 Abortion without sepsis	0.05	4
147 Puerperal infections	0.13	
142-146, 148-150 Other maternal causes	0.73	

†Rates per 1,000 total population. * Per 1,000 related births.
** In London Puerperal fever alone was 0.61

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply :

The Water Supply for the District is obtained from the Corporation of Liverpool, and is satisfactory both in quality and in quantity. Water is supplied from public mains as follows :—

(*a*) Direct to dwelling houses :—13,198 dwelling houses.

(*b*) By means of stand pipes :—none.

Water is supplied from a private supply in one case *i.e.*, shallow well, and serving one dwelling house.

Drainage and Sewerage :

The greater part of the district is served by disposal works employing sedimentation tanks, percolating filters, and sludge digestion plant. D.W.F. 950,000 gallons per day. Remainder of the district taken by Liverpool sewers.

Plans for £190,500 extension scheme to present sewage disposal works, lodged with Ministry of Health for their approval, and awaiting a public enquiry.

Closet Accommodation :

Privy Middens	3
No. of closets attached to these middens	3
No. of pail closets....	13
No. of dry ash pits (exc. middens)	6
No. of movable ash bins	13,189
No. of houses on water carriage system	13,182
No. of fresh water closets	13,182
No. of waste water closets	nil

Conversions :

3 privy closets were converted to pail closets and 72 movable ash bins were substituted for fixed receptacles.

HOUSING

Housing Statistics for 1948 :

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(i) By th Local Authority....	242
(ii) By other Local Authorities	193
(iii) By other Bodies or persons....	130

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	560
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1904
(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	—
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	—

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .... —

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.... 414

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 297

3. Action under statutory powers during the year :

(*a*) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners .... —

(*b*) By local authority in default of owners .... —

(*b*) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remediod 112

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners 98

(*b*) By local authority in default of owners .... —

(*c*) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .... —

(*d*) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .... —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .... —

Housing Conditions :

Most of the property has been constructed within the last fifteen years and is of the type for the accommodation of the lower income groups of people. Construction is sound in most cases. In the older parts of the district there is still a fair amount of old terrace type cottages, which will require to be dealt with by clearance or reconditioning as soon as conditions permit.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1948

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED													Total Deaths	Hospital	
	Total Cases at all ages	Age Periods—Years													Total cases removed to hospital from the district	Deaths in hospital of persons belonging to district
		Under 1	1–2	2–3	3–4	4–5	5–10	10–15	15–20	20–35	35–45	45–65	65 & over			
Smallpox																
Scarlet fever	180	1	4	9	11	18	97	30	6	3	1				97	
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	28	1	1		1		12	8	4			1			26	
Enteric or typhoid fever (excluding paratyphoid)	2						2								2	
Paratyphoid fever																
Measles (excluding rubella)	583	24	91	94	89	80	193	12							17	
Whooping cough	330	21	58	56	47	36	109	3						4	17	
Acute pneumonia .... (primary and influenza)	95	6	13	9	8	7	15	3	8	10	9	6	1	22	41	
Puerperal pyrexia	1								1						1	
Cerebro-spinal fever	5	1					2			1	1				4	
Acute poliomyelitis																
Acute polio-encephalitis																
Acute encephalitis lethargica..																
Dysentery	7	3	1	3											7	
Ophthalmia neonatorum																
Erysipelas	8						1				4	3			3	
Malaria Contracted— In this Country																
Abroad																
Any other diseases *notifiable* in district, *e.g*, :— Chicken-pox																
Any other disease :—																
Totals	1239	57	168	171	156	141	431	56	19	14	15	10	1	26	215	

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality During 1948.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
1—	1	2	4	—	—	—	2	1
5—	—	2	4	2	—	1	1	—
10—	—	2	1	1	—	—	1	1
15—	2	6	1	4	—	1	—	2
20—	4	7	1	1	1	1	—	—
25—	6	8	1	1	6	6	—	—
35—	10	3	—	—	—	3	—	—
45—	4	1	—	—	2	2	—	—
55—	3	—	1	—	4	1	—	—
65 and upwards	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	33	31	13	10	15	15	4	5
	64		23		30		9	

Disinfection after Infectious Disease :

The method used for the disinfection of houses after infectious diseases is by the means of formalin lamps and spray. The method for disinfection of bedding, etc., is by dry heat (electrical) the plant being situated at Woolfall Hall.

Number of houses disinfected during 1948—240.

Diphtheria Immunisation :

Prior to the inception of the National Health Service Act, the local Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme was administered by the Urban District Council. Immunisation sessions were held in Schools and Child Welfare Clinics, and also arrangements were made with local medical practitioners to provide immunisation for individual children.

No. of children who received artificial immunisation during 1948 :—

1. Pre-school children 541—Prophylactic used—A.P.T.
2. School children 194—Prophylactic used—A.P.T. & T.A.F.

Immunisation state of child population as at 31st December, 1947 :

	Under 5 yrs.	Over 5 yrs and under 15 yrs.	Total under 15 yrs. of age
No. of children that have now been protected by artificial immunisation	2681	8109	10,790
Percentage of children protected in the above age group	48.03	74.5	65.6

Laboratory facilities :

All specimens are sent to the Liverpool City Laboratories, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in Respect of the Year 1948 for the Urban District of Huyton-with-Roby in the County of Lancaster.

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Insp'tions	Written notices	Occupiers prose'ted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	8	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	12	35	6	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority **1** (excluding out-workers' premises)....	6	8	—	—
Total	26	51	7	—

2.—Cases in which **DEFECTS** were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecution were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	2	2	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.) (*a*) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	—	—
Total	7	7	—	—	—

1 *i.e.*, Electrical Stations (Section 103(1)), Institutions (Section 104) and Sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) :—

Nature of Work—Making, etc. of Wearing apparel—2.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1948

Public Health Department,
14 Westmorland Road,
Huyton, nr. Liverpool.

June, 1949.

To the Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors.

During the past year the work of the Sanitary Department has proceeded satisfactorily, and steady progress is being maintained in all directions.

With regard to Housing matters it is to be hoped that in the not distant future, we shall be in a position to take action regarding the clearance of some of the old and worn out houses in our area. In the meantime, we are managing to keep such premises weatherproof, but at the same time, except from sheer necessity, it is obviously a waste of money and material to be continually patching up redundant working class houses.

I should like to thank the members of the Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

Yours obediently,

C. COOPER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Summary of the Work of the Sanitary Inspectors :

Complaints—

Complaints have been received and investigated as shown below :—

Defects	*Number*
Drainage	110
Refuse accomodation	39
Housing	219
Rat nuisance....	191
General nuisance	111
Total	670

Notices served—

Preliminary Notices	780
Statutory Notices....	212
Total	992

Summary of Defects abated on Notice :

Houses —

Roofs repaired	62
Walls repointed	18
Gutters and downspouts renewed or repaired...	42
Chimney stacks repaired....	15
Dampness remedied	19
Walls and ceilings replastered and repaired	70
Floors repaired	65
Doors and windows repaired	29
Fireplaces repaired	13
Sink waste pipes repaired	26
Yards and passages repaired and repaved	55
Repairs to water supply....	23

Drainage :

Drains cleared	36
Drainage repairs	12
Soil pipes and vent shafts repaired	7

Water Closets :

W.C. basins repaired or renewed	5
Repairs to W.C. compartments	34
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	20

Refuse Bins :

New bins provided	121

Miscellaneous :

Offensive accumulations removed	5
Dirty premises	21

Prosecutions :

Proceedings were instituted in one case during the year, and an abate ment order made by the Court.

Summary of Inspectors Visits :

Bakehouses....	15
Factories and Workshops	26
Dairies and Cowsheds	40
Butchers shops and other Food Premises	941
Investigation of Infectious Diseases	397
Investigation of Public Health Nuisances	3095
Inspection under Housing Act, 1936	679
Rodent investigations	163
Drainage	382
Refuse accommodation	323
Miscellaneous	1611
Total	7672

Inspection and Supervision of Food :

Milk Supply—

The bulk of the milk supply for the district comes from the large dealers outside the area. There are now only two cow-keepors with premises within the district keeping approximately sixty cows, other purveyors of milk with premises within the district number four.

Premises are inspected frequently and their condition is good. Regular samples are taken for bacteriological examination from all purveyors and the following are the results for the year :—

Sample submitted for	No. of samples submitted	Result	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Methylene Blue examination	114	102	1
Phosphatase Test	49	47	2
		Positive	Negative
Bacillus Tuberculosis	62	4	58

Prosecutions :

One under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, Article 33, a conviction was recorded and the dealer fined £1.

Ice Cream :

There are 24 premises within the district registered under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board & General Powers Act, 1938). Seventeen dealers only, and seven are makers. Of the latter one is making hot mix, and six use the COMPLETE COLD MIX powder. Premises are frequently inspected and all operations regularly scrutinised. Conditions generally are good.

During the season sixty-one samples were taken and submitted for the methylene blue test, with the following results :—

Grade 1	24
Grade 2	15
Grade 3	7
Grade 4	15

Other Food Premises :

All premises where food is sold or prepared for sale are regularly inspected. Their condition generally is good.

During the year particular attention has been directed to the provision of a sufficient supply of soap, clean towels, clean water, both hot and cold, for the use of persons employed. Although legislation is somewhat vague in this respect we have met with a ready response. Geysers have been installed at 33 food premises.

Three cooking kitchens for the provision of school meals are situated in the area, these receive frequent inspection and are in a satisfactory condition.

A new form of trading in the shape of Mobile Fish and Chip Vans has been introduced into the district during the year. From the hygienic side these are not altogether satisfactory, but unfortunately legislation to deal with them is very meagre.

Unsound Food :

The following articles of food were, on inspection found to be unfit for human consumption, and were voluntarily surrendered :—

Fish....	157 tins.
Milk....	512 tins.
Meat products	224 tins.
Mussels	14 tins.
Fruit	115 tins.
Vegetables	670 tins.
Jams and Marmalade	226 tins.
Salad Cream	4 bottles.
Walnuts	22 lbs.
Fish....	112 lbs.
Sausage Meat	12 lbs.
Black Pudding	12 lbs.
Soups	57 tins.
Meat	6 lbs.
Cereals	9 pkts.
Syrup	4 tins.
Eggs	42
Dates	70 pkts.
Oranges	170 lbs.
Kippers	19 boxes
Cheese	46 pkts.
Pickles	1 tin.
Puddings	6
Tea	13½ lbs.
Biscuits	3 lbs.
Dried Egg	1 pkt.
Bread	240 loaves.
Chocolate	6 ozs.
Prunes	39 lbs.

Prosecutions :

Proceedings were instituted in three cases for exposing unsound fish for sale for human consumption. Convictions were obtained and in each case fined £5.

Food Sampling (Food and Drugs Act, 1938) :

This work is performed by the County Authorities, and during the year the following samples were taken :—

Milk	22 Formals	64 Informals
Other articles of Food and Drugs	—	58 Informals.

None of the samples were found to be adulterated.

Rodent Control :

The Council accepted the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries scheme as outlined in Circular N.S.19. The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year :—

	Rats	*Mice*
Total number of poison treatments carried out	115	16

The premises treated were in the following categories :—

Private dwelling houses	99
Schools	4
Day Nurseries	3
Water Courses	3
Local Authority Refuse Tip	3
Business premises	19

Two Sewer Maintenance treatments were carried out during the year.

Total number of visits paid to premises for the purpose of search and of treatment—2,127.

Estimated kill of rats, all sources	1171
Total number of bodies recovered	347

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